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U.S. Agencies Differ on Fate Of 11 Soviets

Revoking Expulsions Of Some Discussed

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The fate of 11 Soviet diplomats assigned to the Soviet mission to the United Nations in New York has become a bone of contention between State Department diplomats and FBI and Justice Department officials, according to informed officials.

The 11 diplomats were among 25 named by the United States as no longer welcome in this country during the flap over accused Soviet spy Gennadi Zakharov and U.S. News & World Report journalist Nicholas Daniloff, charged with spying by the Soviets. Fourteen of the 25 have left the country, but the Soviets have said they want some of the others to stay.

A senior administration official told reporters at the White House yesterday that it was possible that two or three of the 11 would be allowed to remain in this country if the Soviets can demonstrate that they had been misidentified as intelligence operatives.

In a conversation in New York with Secretary of State George P. Shultz last month, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said he "knew" that several of the 11 were diplomats whose work was important to the Soviet mission, and asked that the United States reconsider their expulsion. Shultz agreed at the time to a two-week grace period beyond the original Oct. 1 deadline for the departures.

Shultz told Shevardnadze to provide the names of those diplomats who he thought should be allowed to remain in New York. No names have been provided by Moscow, State Department officials said yesterday.

Intelligence sources said yesterday that the 25 names were taken from a list of 40 initially provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which identified them all as intelligence operatives working out of the Soviet mission to the U.N.

The fate of the Soviet diplomats in New York may come up at the summit in Iceland this weekend.

Sources said yesterday that the FBI is now concerned that for diplomatic reasons, the Reagan administration may compromise on its earlier demand that all 25 named Soviets leave New York.

How to handle the 1,500 official Soviets in the United States has long been a matter of dispute among government agencies. The State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI have different missions and thus different approaches for reducing what a Senate intelligence committee report on counterintelligence said yesterday were approximately 450 Soviet diplomats in this country who are really intelligence agents.

The committee report noted that the KGB, the Soviet secret police, "has succeeded in infiltrating its officers into the U.N. bureaucracy," including the position of assistant to the secretary general. The assistant was not named in the Senate report, but the U.N. roster lists Vladimir Kolesnikov of the Soviet Union as one of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special assistants.

The FBI, which has to keep track of Soviet diplomatic activities in the United States, wants the number cut as quickly as possible on the grounds that the bureau has insufficient investigative personnel to keep track of all Soviet activities.

The CIA and State Department want the overall number reduced, but not at a rate that will cause Moscow to retaliate by demanding reciprocal reductions on the U.S. diplomatic and intelligence presence in that country. In addition, the CIA is reluctant to see the number of Soviets here reduced too much because it views them as a pool of potential recruits.

The differing points of view among the FBI, the CIA and the State Department emerged last month when the administration de-

cided to give the Soviets a list of individuals at their three U.N. missions, including those of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, who would have to leave the country by Oct. 1. This was to be the first step in a two-year program that began last March to cut their missions from 275 to 170 persons by April 1988.

The administration had ordered the Soviet missions reduced to 218 by Oct. 1 but had received no information from Moscow as to whether it was ready to comply and, if so, which members of the U.N. mission were leaving.

Actually, the Soviets had already begun the reduction, and claimed they were below the 218 level when the names were handed to them.

A State Department spokesman said yesterday that Shultz still stands by the original expulsion order that the remaining 11 Soviet diplomats who have not actually left yet must go.